



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

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PRESS RELEASE

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Council of Municipal Court Judges Advises Members on *Obergefell v. Hodges*

Atlanta, GA — On Friday, the US Supreme Court ruled that states must license marriage between two people of the same sex and recognize same sex marriages that were lawfully licensed and performed out of state.

According to Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones, President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges, Municipal Court Judges across the State perform thousands of wedding ceremonies each year. The Council has reviewed the *Obergefell* decision and Georgia's Municipal Court Judges are doing everything they can to comply with the change in the law. Attorney General Samuel Olens released a statement on Friday that Georgia will follow the law and adhere to the ruling. Similarly, Gov. Nathan Deal announced on the day of the ruling that Georgia will follow federal law.

In a statement to the Council membership regarding the ruling, Judge Jones stated, "We encourage judges who perform weddings to embrace this ruling and do everything they can to comply with the law and their ethical obligations."

The Council's judges are currently sharing vows and ceremony formats that will accommodate same sex couples with gender-neutral and single-gendered language.
